

Honorable Representative Kathleen Galvin-Halcro and House Education Committee,

I would like to voice my support for House Bill No. 47. I have been a kindergarten teacher for three years. I taught full day kindergarten my first two years in Great Falls, MT and currently teach half day kindergarten here in Helena. With experience in both kindergarten settings, I believe that full day only benefits are students and teachers.

In order to meet the demands of No Child Left Behind, today's kindergarten curriculum has become more intense in areas of reading, math, writing, and science. During the half-day schedule, I have two hours and twenty minutes to help my students reach mastery in all the skills they need for first grade; this includes social skills. This short amount of time is very rushed and full enjoyment and understanding of lessons is not always reached. Full day kindergarten would give us teachers the ability to reach our students in more than one way. We would have more time in the day to experience our curriculum and teachers could have more opportunities to help individual students in the classroom. Technology and other quick references in the classroom could be fully experienced and students could reach a higher independence level.

I have seen positives in both half day and full day classrooms, yet feel that full day has many more opportunities and can meet the requirements of our educational system better. Thank you for taking the time to hear my words and considering this bill.

Sincerely,

Melody a. Wall ☺

Melody Wall
Kindergarten Four Georgians Elementary